

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 14745 231641Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 /053 W
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R 231520Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6075

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 14745

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, BB, BU
SUBJECT: JUDICIAL INQUIRY-RICARDO PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 309051

1. HERNAN RICARDO DID NOT HOLD A FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE AND THEREFORE NO TRANSCRIPT IS AVAILABLE. ON NOVEMBER 26, WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM HIS CELL TO THE COURT IN ORDER TO TESTIFY BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE PREPARING INDICTMENTS ON THIS CASE, HE WAS QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY BY NEWSMEN AND HIS REPLIES WERE PROMINENTLY CARRIED BY CARACAS PRESS ON NOVEMBER 27.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AS THEY APPEARED IN EL NACIONAL (WHICH HAD THE MOST EXTENSIVE STORY) FOLLOW:

QUOTE

Q. DO YOU WORK FOR A SECURITY SERVICE?

A. RIGHT NOW, I CANNOT TELL YOU BECAUSE I HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY LAWYERS TO KEEP THIS MATTER CONFIDENTIAL SINCE THEY ARE THE ONES WHO ARE CHARGED WITH DEMONSTRATING TO PUBLIC OPINION THAT I WORK ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS AND THAT I
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CARRIED OUT INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS IN MY COUNTRY, FOR A NATIONAL ORGANISM, NOT FOR THE CIA. UNQUOTE. WHEN ASKED FURTHER ABOUT HIS INTELLIGENCE WORK IN TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS, HE SAID QUOTE THE FUNCTION THAT I WAS CARRYING OUT IS RELATED WITH MY PHOTOGRAPHY WORK UNQUOTE. WHEN REPORTERS INSISTED CONCERNING HIS CONNECTION WITH THE CIA, HE STATED QUOTE I AM NOT A MEMBER

OF THE CIA. THEY SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN (A CIA MEMBER) SINCE 1970,
AND THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BECAUSE THEN I WAS ONLY FIFTEEN YEARS
OLD UNQUOTE.

3. OTHER PAPERS PUBLISHED ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR VERSIONS.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE
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